

A New Look at the New Communities Initiative

Review of the Old and Preview of the New

Background

- In 2006, the City, County and State agreed to launch an initiative to address the needs of central northeast Wichita.
- Statistics from the area suggested the need for a change in service delivery strategies to address disproportionately high rates of:
 - ✓ High school dropouts
 - ✓ Unemployment
 - ✓ Prison sentencing

Two-Pronged Approach

- ➔ Improve the physical infrastructure of the area (physical redevelopment)
- ➔ Enhance the quality of life potential for the residents (human capital)

Action Steps

- Policy group was formed
 - Included elected and appointed government officials, private and nonprofit community leaders, and neighborhood leadership
- Five teams were created to focus on:
 1. Adult Education and Economic Development
 2. Children and Youth
 3. Physical, Mental and Behavioral Health
 4. Housing for All
 5. Safe and Secure Neighborhoods

Action Steps, cont'd

Funding and staff resources were shifted to focus on needs of this community

- County – directed funds for special summer youth employment programs in 07 and 08
- State – funded two prisoner reentry positions (housing and police)
- City/County – prioritized alcohol treatment funds to the area
- City – interdepartmental team identified to address blight (START)

Highlights

From 2008 Annual Report

- * 16 youth employed over two summers to give the area a 'facelift'
- * 26% reduction in absconder rate for persons under parole supervision
- * 8 new homes built and sold to first time homebuyers
- * Number of boarded structures reduced from 433 to 197

2010 Next Steps

- Review & prepare an updated report on the original goals
- Redefine the NCI as an investment strategy
- Research successful neighborhood investment models (such as those listed below) and create framework for Wichita:
 - *Great Indy Neighborhoods* (Indianapolis)
 - *Neighborhoods in Bloom* (Richmond)
 - *Neighborhood Investment Districts* (Columbus)
 - *Neighborhood Investment Program* (Dallas)
 - *Invest Saint Paul* (Saint Paul)

Invest Saint Paul (ISP) Initiative

- Invest Saint Paul is a neighborhood reinvestment strategy initiated by Mayor Christopher Coleman
- There are three key components:
 - Improving City coordination
 - Growing strong partnerships
 - Making smart capital investments

Invest Saint Paul Strategies

- 4 neighborhoods identified where “challenges outweigh the resources”
- Goal is to transform a 2-square block area in each of the four neighborhoods to:
 - Signal return of vitality and hope
 - Spark similar efforts in other blocks to ignite investment
 - Show that better City coordination will visibly improve blocks

Take Aways for Wichita

We're There!

- ✓ City Coordination
 - START teams
- ✓ Growing Partnerships
 - City, County, State, USD 259, private, nonprofits, WSU, neighborhoods
- ✓ Capital Investments
 - CDBG
 - HOME
 - Stimulus

Need to Get There!

- ✓ Small area transformation
 - Original NCI area was too large
- ✓ 4 target areas
 - NCI focus has been in only one
- ✓ Capital Investments
 - Current investments are very limited

New Communities - Investing in People and Property

New Communities - IPP

- Why **Invest**?

That is what cities do to build their tax base: they invest in downtown, they invest in sports teams, they invest in visitor attractions – and they should invest in neighborhoods.

- This proposal includes investment of staff resources and increased targeting of funds for capital projects.
- Note: The capital investments will contribute to improving the tax base as well as enhancing the neighborhoods.

- **Why People?**

People of all ages are a City's most valuable resource and each deserves an opportunity to live and grow in a strong neighborhood.

- This proposal retains the human capital focus of the original NCI program.
- It is anticipated that there will be numerous opportunities for expansion of healthy babies initiatives, youth mentoring programs, addressing employment needs or advocating for seniors in need of specialized health care.

- **Why Property?**

The most visible sign of neighborhood strength is the condition of its homes and businesses.

- This proposal expands the concept to Council Districts 1, 3, 4, and 6 which comprise most of the areas currently eligible for CDBG and HOME funding.
- It also restricts the target area to a 2-3 square block section of each District which will create a visual impact.

From the old, a **New Governance Structure**:

New Communities Executive Team

- 21 members from former Policy Group
 - Designate Community Leader for each District Investment Team
- Meet four times/year

New Communities District Investment Teams

- Replace Pillar Groups with District Investment Teams
- There will be a core group of 10-15 members/Team
- Others with specific expertise or resources, will join the Teams as needed for specific projects
- Meet at least monthly; report quarterly

New Communities IPP

Investing in People and Property

- **Executive Team**

- 2 City electeds
- 2 County electeds
- 2 State electeds
- USD 259 Board
- USD 259 Superintendent
- WSU President
- City, County Mgrs
- Koch
- Knight Foundation
- Spirit AeroSystems
- INTRUST
- Wesley
- Via Christi
- Wichita Independent Neighborhoods
- KS Dept of Corrections
- KS Dept of Social & Rehab Svcs
- KS Juvenile Justice Authority

- **District Investment Teams**

- 1 City elected
- 1 County elected or appointed
- 1 State elected or appointed
- City staff (2-3)
- County staff (2-3)
- State staff (2-3)
- DAB
- Local Neighborhood Association

As needed:

- Workforce Alliance
- United Way
- Other State departments

From the old, a **New Strategic Alignment**:

People

- Employment
- Children, Youth
- Health (Physical, Mental, Behavioral)

Property

- Safety
- Housing
- Economic Development

Identify lead person for People and Property

- Will serve as a resource for each team

District Investment Teams will develop short term and long term strategies around the strategic alignments:

- Employment
- Children, Youth
- Health (Physical, Mental, Behavioral)
- Safety
- Housing
- Economic Development

- From the old, **New Focus Areas**:
- Identify 2-3 square block area in each of the following Council Districts:
 - District 1
 - District 3
 - District 4
 - District 6

Areas identified by District Investment Teams who will:

- Review neighborhood plans and other planning documents for each district
- Establish criteria for deciding on a 2-3 square block neighborhood focus area
- Identify one or more specific projects to target in the focus area (from the Property and People Strategic Alignments, slide 17)

New Communities IPP Resources – Staff

People

- City staff – CDO, HCSD, CMO, WPD
- Consultants – Urban Strategies – no cost to City

Property

- City staff – Planning, HCSD, CMO, START, OCI
- Consultants – Urban Strategies – no cost to City

District Investment Team Liaisons

- CMO – Neighborhood Assistants
- Executive Team – Community Leader

New Communities IPP Resources – Cash

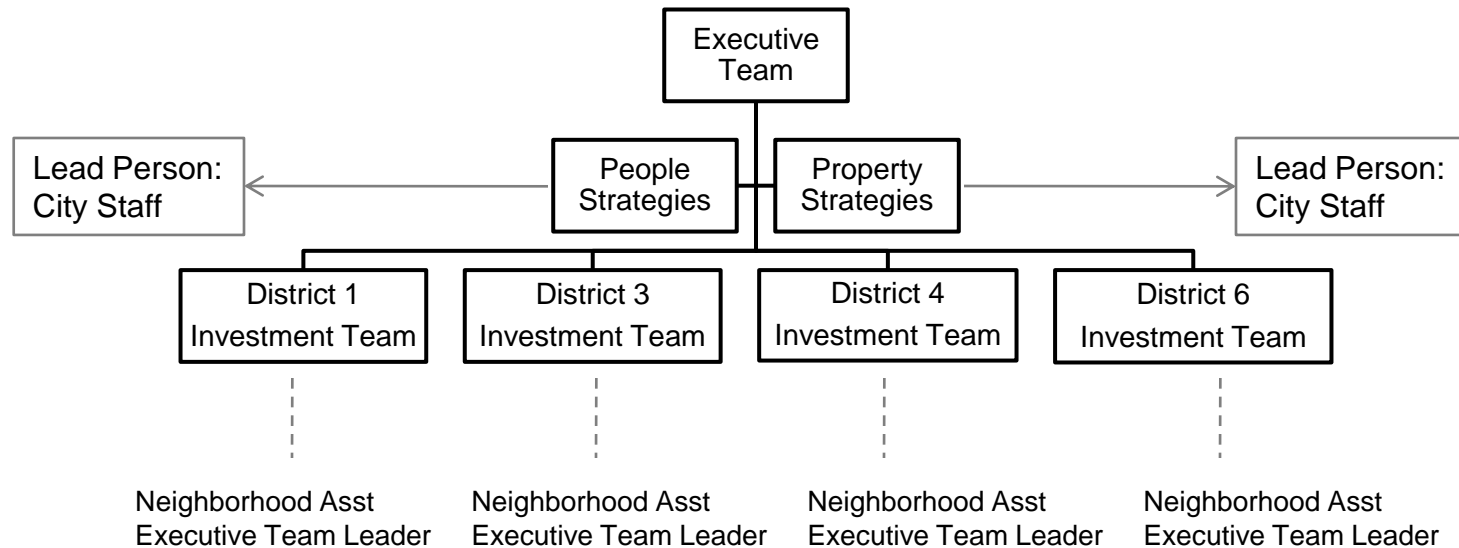
People

- CDBG (Public Services)
- Liquor Tax
- CSBG

Property

- CDBG, HOME
- CIP
- City General Fund – street repair
- Neighborhood Stabilization Program
- Other?

Proposed New Operating Structure



Next Steps – Proposed Timeline

- A. Reconvene core planning group including the team chairs, Council representative(s), and CMO staff, to present new strategy (April)
- B. Name and convene Executive Team and District Investment Teams (May)
- C. Engage Urban Strategies to develop data profiles for each Focus Area (May-July)
- D. Present findings to Executive Team and District Investment Teams to identify first Focus Area (July)

- Additional Urban Strategies Contributions
 - Assist in transitioning to the new NCI-IPP structure and focus
 - Identify best practices which can be applied in Wichita
 - Assist in identifying federal or other financial resources for local use
- Urban Strategies staff will be available to the City of Wichita for these tasks through 2010, at no cost to the City

Questions?